

Municipal regulation of vicious dogs
(HB 1193 by Valigura/Washington)

DIGEST: HB 1193 would have allowed municipalities other than Houston to adopt and enforce ordinances regulating vicious dogs. Breed-specific ordinances would not have been permitted. A person could not have been prosecuted both under such an ordinance and under the Penal Code for the same offense. The bill would also have amended the Code of Criminal Procedure to clarify that municipalities would not be prohibited from adopting and utilizing an administrative procedure for the destruction of dogs.

GOVERNOR'S
REASON
FOR VETO:

This bill prohibits municipalities, other than Houston, from adopting breed specific ordinances regulating vicious dogs. This is a local issue. The Legislature should not dictate how municipalities should regulate animals.

RESPONSE:

Rep. Keith Valigura, the author of HB 1193, said the purpose of the bill was to have some uniformity statewide concerning ordinances governing vicious dogs. "I find it difficult to understand the veto when there was virtually no opposition in either house," he said. The Texas Municipal League and the Kennel Association had wanted some clarifications added to the existing law, Rep. Valigura said.

NOTES:

The House Research Organization analysis of HB 1193 appeared in Part Two of the April 27, 1989 Daily Floor Report.